

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are currently pending.

Claims 1 and 3 are herewith amended. No new matter has been introduced as a result of the claim amendment.

The Examiner has raised an objection to the Specification for the reasons stated in item No. 1 on page 2 of the Official Action, and not herein repeated. Applicants respectfully traverse this objection since the conversion of the AAL2 cells to AAL2 Prima cells is believed to be sufficiently disclosed in the Specification as described in paragraph [0055]. Accordingly, the AAL2 ATM cells are converted to AAL2 prime ATM cells for allowing the AAL2 ATM cells to be ATM switchable by extracting data per single user from the AAL2 ATM cells containing multiple users' data and generating the AAL2 prime ATM cell including extracted data only for the single user. Furthermore, conversion of ATM cell to be ATM switchable is described in paragraph [0016]. Thus conversion of ATM cell is asserted to be well known in the art.

The Examiner's objection to Claim 3 and rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112 (2nd ¶) are also traversed, and now believed to be moot in view of the amendments to the aforesaid claim.

On the merits, the Examiner has rejection Claims 1-2 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as anticipated "by Applicant's admitted prior art". The arguments in support of this rejection are set-out in item No. 6 on pages 4 and 5 of the Official Action, and not herein repeated.

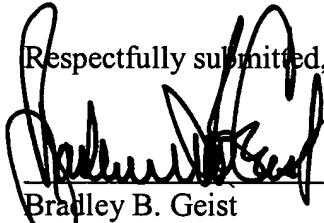
Further still, the Examiner has rejected Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,445,683 (Nobuyasu et al.) for the reasons discussed in item No. 7 on pages 5 and 6, and not herein repeated.

Further, the Examiner has rejected Claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Nobuyasu et al. in view of "Applicant's admitted prior art", for the reasons advanced in item No. 9 on pages 6 and 7 of the Official Action, and not herein repeated.

Applicants respectfully traverse each and every ground for rejection raised by the Examiner. Applicants note with appreciation the conditional allowance of Claims 3-8 for the reasons stated in items No. 11 on pages 7 and 8 of the Official Action.

By this amendment, Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the substantial limitations recited in Claim 3 which the Examiner has indicated are novel and unobvious. In the circumstances, Applicants believe the pending claims are now in condition for allowance, and respectfully request reconsideration by the Examiner.

Respectfully submitted,



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